

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 46-59, 149 and 150 are cancelled. Claims 131-144 stand allowed. The Examiner did not address claims 155 and 156 but they should also stand allowed as they are dependent upon claim 131.

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-130 (Cancelled).

131. (Original) A method for stimulating a vagus nerve of a patient, comprising the steps of:

inserting a first electrode into a jugular vein of said patient;
placing a second electrode on the neck of said patient; and
actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field which stimulates said vagus nerve.

132. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 131, wherein said step of placing a second electrode on the neck of said patient comprises the step of placing a second electrode on the neck of said patient at a location approximately one centimeter from said first electrode in said jugular vein of said patient.

133. (Original) The method of Claim 131, wherein said step of actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field comprises the step of actuating both of said first and second electrodes to create an electrical field.

134. (Original) The method of Claim 131, wherein said step of actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field comprises the step of actuating one or both of said electrodes in one of a unipolar or a bipolar mode.

135. (Original) The method of Claim 131, wherein said vagus nerve is stimulated for a period of between about five and about ninety seconds.

136. (Original) The method of Claim 135, wherein said vagus nerve is stimulated for a period of between about five and about fifteen seconds.

137. (Original) The method of Claim 131, wherein said step of actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field comprises the step of applying an impulse to at least one of said electrodes at a frequency of between about one Hertz and about five hundred Hertz.

138. (Original) The method of Claim 137, wherein said step of applying an impulse at a frequency of between about one Hertz and about five hundred Hertz comprises the step of applying an impulse at a frequency of between about twenty Hertz and about eighty Hertz.

139. (Original) The method of Claim 138, wherein said step of applying an impulse at a frequency of between about twenty Hertz and about eighty Hertz comprises the step of applying an impulse at a frequency of about forty Hertz.

140. (Original) The method of Claim 131, wherein said step of actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field comprises the step of actuating at least one of said electrodes to generate electrical impulses having a duration of 0.4 msec.

141. (Original) The method of Claim 131, wherein said step of actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field comprises the step of transmitting to at least one of said electrodes an electrical impulse having an amplitude of from about one to about forty volts.

142. (Original) The method of Claim 141, wherein said step of actuating at least one of said electrodes to create an electrical field comprises the step of transmitting to at least one of said electrodes an electrical impulse having an amplitude of from about two to about six volts.

143. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 131, wherein said vagus nerve is stimulated during a surgical procedure selected from the group consisting of: minimally invasive direct coronary artery bypass graft surgery, off-pump coronary artery bypass graft surgery, coronary artery bypass surgery performed on cardiopulmonary bypass, partially or totally endoscopic coronary artery bypass graft surgery, percutaneous or surgical transmymocardial laser revascularization procedure, or a surgical procedure performed upon a heart, heart valves, myocardium, coronary vascular structure, peripheral vascular structure, an electrophysiological procedure, a neurosurgical procedure, or a percutaneous transcatheter coronary procedure.

144. (Original) The method of Claim 131, wherein said step of actuating said electrode to create an electrical field effective to stimulate said vagus nerve comprises the step of creating an electrical field effective to stimulate said vagus nerve to achieve asystole.

Claims 145-154 (Cancelled).

155. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 131,
wherein said step of inserting a first electrode into the jugular vein of said patient
comprises the step of inserting more than one electrode into the jugular vein of said patient;
wherein said step of placing a second electrode into the neck of said patient
comprises the step of placing more than one electrode into the neck of said patient;
further wherein each electrode of said more than one electrode is arranged in a
spaced apart relation relative to each other electrode; and
wherein said step of actuating said electrode to create an electrical field comprises
the step of actuating at least one of said more than one electrode to create an electrical field.

156. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 155, wherein each electrode of the
more than one electrode is spaced approximately one centimeter from each other electrode.

Claims 157-185 (Cancelled).